

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04284 102017Z

73-61

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 L-03 COME-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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BERN FOR UPU

PARIS FOR NESCO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP WORKING PARTY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS

1. WORKING PARTY MET WITH MR. HANS DRUCKS, DIRECTOR OF IOB SECRETARIAT ON AUGUST 9, 1973, TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF ECOSOC DECISION TO APPROVE IN-DEPTH STUDY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS. DRUCKS POINTED OUT THAT BY GOING FURTHER AND BEING MORE SPECIFIC IN ITS REQUIREMENTS THAN THE ACC PROPOSAL THIS DECISION HAS REQUIRED THE IOB SECRETARIAT TO REVISE SOMEWHAT THE CONTENTS AND THRUST OF THE IN-DEPTH STUDY NOW UNDERWAY. HE IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE DECISION WHICH HE STATES WILL MAKE THE STUDY MUCH MORE MEANINGFUL. HE HAS RECEIVED SOME
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 04284 102017Z

INDICATIONS OF CONCERN FROM SOME OF THE SAS WHO FEEL THAT

ECOSOC MAY BE ASKING FOR MORE THAN THE AGENCIES CAN OR WANT TO PRODUCE.

2. CURRENT STATUS AND SCHEDULE OF IN-DEPTH STUDY CALLS FOR DRUCKS TO PROVIDE SAS WITH A DRAFT REPORT PRIOR TO OCT 1 AND FOR AGENCY COMMENTS TO BE RECEIVED BY IOB SECRETARIAT NOT LATER THAN NOV 1. THIS REPORT TO BE REVIEWED SUCCESSIVELY BY REVIEW COMMITTEE, IOB, PREP COM AND ACC PRIOR TO NEXT SUMMER'S ECOSOC.

3. WORKING PARTY AGREED TO PROCEED WITH CONSIDERATION OF A TYPE OF QUESTIONNAIRE WITH WHICH GENEVA GROUP MIGHT WISH TO APPROACH INDIVIDUAL SAS. SUCH QUESTIONNAIRE WOULD HAVE AS ITS UNDERLYING PURPOSE TO IMPRESS UPON SAS THAT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT AND IN THE SUCCESS OF THE OBJECTIVES MENTIONED IN THE COSOC DECISION ON THE IN-DEPTH STUDY. DRUCKS WAS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE WORKING PARTY WITH A LIST OF QUESTIONS IN THREE CATEGORIES: (1) QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO DETERMINE AT WHAT LEVEL AND IN WHAT INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS ARE AGENCY DECISIONS AND POLICY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS DETERMINED; (2) QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE AGENCIES ARE IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENTS ALREADY REACHED BY THE IOB I.E. USE OF THE AGREED DEFINITIONS FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS; (3) QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO TEST THE ABILITY OF AGENCY INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE BASIC MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ON PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

4. WORKING PARTY WILL MEET AGAIN ON AUGUST 21 TO EXAMINE QUESTIONS PROVIDED BY DRUCKS.

5. FOR THOSE ADDRESSEES NOT INFORMED THE TEXT OF ECOSOC DECISION RE IN-DEPTH STUDY FOLLOWS:

QTE (A) TO APPROVE THE TOPIC OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTER USE FOR IN-DEPTH STUDY IN 1974, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION IN ITS REPORT TO THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL;

(B) THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION, IN CHARGING THE INTER-ORGANIZATIONS BOARD (IOB) WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 04284 102017Z

PREPARATION OF THIS STUDY, INTER ALIA, SHOULD OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

(I) THE STUDY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON CONCEPTS FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUPPORTING THE MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS WITH EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT APPLICABLE TO PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL;

(II) THESE CONCEPTS SHOULD SUPPORT THE PREPARATION OF PROGRAMMES AND FINANCIAL PLANS, EVALUATION, PROGRESS REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING. FUNDAMENTAL TO THESE CONCEPTS SHOULD BE THE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS SO AS TO FACILITATE THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF GOVERNING BODIES; AND

(C) THAT THE STUDY SHOULD RESULT IN THE SUBMISSION BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION TO THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF A PLAN CONTAINING A SEQUENCE OF STEPS TO DEVELOP COMPATIBLE INFORMATION SYSTEMS INVOLVING COMMON CONCEPTS FOR SUPPORTING THE MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS AND MEASURES ENVISAGED TO OBTAIN THAT END. IT SHOULD CONTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE ESTIMATE OF RESOURCES REQUIRED BY EACH ELEMENT OF THE SYSTEM IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE TAKING OF CONCRETE STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. UNQTE

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